Death of Tigresses in Corbett National Park

†3726. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that four tigresses died mysteriously in the Corbett National Park and forest division of Rampur during last three-four months;

(b) whether it is also a fact that on 9th January, 2006 one tigress in Aam Danda Beat of Bijarni Range and between February, 2006 to 7th March, 2006 two tigresses in buffer zone were found dead in suspicious conditions;

(c) whether it is also a fact that both dead tigresses were of younger age and proper investigation through any reliable agency has not been made, so far, for their suspicious death; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Death of three tigresses from Corbett Tiger Reserve and a tigress from Ramnagar Forest Division between January, 2006 to March, 2006 has come to notice.

(c) and (d) Spot appraisal/field visits were done by a team of experts/ officials from the Wildlife Institute of India as well as the Ministry of Environment & Forests. Though postmortem reports indicate death on account of wounds no conclusive evidence leading to mortality was found. Since the possibility of man-animal conflicts exist in the area, the State Government has been advised for taking necessary measures to ensure adequate protection of wild animals.

Ganga Action Plan

3727. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first phase of the Ganga Action Plan is already 18 years behind schedule, if so, what are the details thereof indicating the original and the revised schedule thereof;

(b) the details of the items of work, so far, completed under the Plan, and the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(c) the cost excalation so far, incurred by the Plan projects, item-wise?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) No Sir. The first phase of Ganga Action Plan which was launched in the year 1985 has since been completed in March, 2000. Under this Plan, a total of 259 schemes of pollution abatement of the river have been completed which includes installation of 33 Sewage Treatment Plants resulting in creation of additional 865 million litres per day (mld) Sewage Treatment Capacity, 88 schemes of Interception & Diversion of sewage, 43 schemes of Low Cost Sanitation, 28 schemes of Crematoria, 35 schemes of River Front Development and 32 other miscellaneous schemes. These schemes were completed at a total cost of Rs. 433.3 crore. The original sanctioned cost of the Plan was Rs. 277 crore. The Revised estimated cost of Rs. 468 crore was approved taking into account a host of factors which included change in scope (like change in design, change in physical condition etc.) to the tune of Rs. 76.92 crores, change in rates to the extent of Rs. 77.08 crores and Rs. 47 crore on account of Central Share on Operation & Maintenance of works in the States, Research & Development, etc.

Sambhar Lake of Rajasthan

3728. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Sambhar Lake of Rajasthan is the biggest salt producing lake of the country, which has been included in World Heritage, listed as Ramsar site;

(b) whether Government are also aware that this historical lake which also has famous Devyani-Tirth, is shrinking day-by-day on account of silting and encroachments;

(c) whether a proposal sent by the Rajasthan Government for saving this lake from further degradation and shallowing is pending for consideration with the Central Government, for the past nine months; and

(d) if so, what action and by when, is proposed to save this legendary lake from dying slow death?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir,